

## **HERSETH SANDLIN INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO CONSTRUCT VISITORS CENTER AT MINUTEMAN MISSILE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

**Washington, DC (April 27, 2010)**-U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin today introduced legislation that will enable the construction of a visitor center at the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. The legislation would facilitate the transfer of approximately 29 acres from the National Forest Service to the National Park Service to construct the facility.

“The Minuteman Missile site is an invaluable historical resource that serves as an important reminder of South Dakota and Ellsworth Air Force Base’s role in the Cold War,” said Herseth Sandlin. “Visitation to this site has been growing rapidly. The construction of a visitor center will help to ensure that Minuteman Missile’s potential to educate visitors is fully realized, while also stimulating the local economy through increased tourism.”

Following the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) in 1991, the Air Force began deactivating the Nation’s entire Minuteman II force. The Delta One Launch Control Facility and the Delta Nine Launch Facility, which now make up the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, were selected for preservation because they are among the Nation’s oldest Minuteman missile bases and are also the least altered from the original Minuteman configuration, much of their technology dating to the era of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Minuteman Missile National Historic Site was officially created in 1999 by enactment of legislation introduced by Senators Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson.

Senator Johnson has introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

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